

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 188910

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DECLASSIFICATION

TAGS: PINR (ALVES, VITOR)

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFO: VITOR MANUEL RODRIGUES ALVES

REF : LISBON 3624

FOR CHARGE POST FROM DE VOS

1. I KNEW VITOR ALVES AND HIS WIFE, MARIA TERESA, IN LUANDA. WE STILL WRITE, BUT CORRESPONDENCE IS PRETTY MUCH CONFINED NOW TO SOCIAL ITEMS.
2. WE MET VITOR SHORTLY BEFORE HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO LUANDA FROM HIS COMMAND AT N'RQUINHA IN SOUTHEAST ANGOLA ON THE ZAMBIA BORDER. HE HAD BEEN THERE FOR SOME TIME. IN ADDITION TO COMBATTING THE INSURGENTS, HE WAS VERY ACTIVE IN RURAL RESETTLEMENT AND THE PROVISION OF SOME SEMBLANCE OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH PROGRAMS TO THE AFRICANS. WHEN HE ARRIVED IN LUANDA, WE CONTINUED OUR RELATIONSHIP. AS I RECALL, HE WAS INVOLVED IN PROPAGANDA. HE OCCASIONALLY WOULD ASK ME FOR U.S. MILITARY BROCHURES ON ANTI-INSURGENCY PROPAGANDA IN VIETNAM (WHICH THE ATTACHES IN LISBON SOME-TIMES SENT) AND SPOKE OFTEN OF THE NEED TO CAPTURE THE MINDS AND WILL OF THE AFRICANS.
3. ALVES HAD SERVED IN MOZAMBIQUE FOR SOME YEARS BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO ANGOLA. I VAGUELY RECALL, BUT AM NOT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 188910

CERTAIN, THAT HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH SPINOLA AT SOME POINT PREVIOUSLY IN HIS CAREER.

4. I NO LONGER RECOLLECT MUCH ABOUT ALVES' INNER THOUGHTS OR MOTIVATIONS. I DO RECALL HIM AS BEING AN INTENSE, HUMANITARIAN INDIVIDUAL, AWARE OF THE SOCIAL INEQUALITIES IN AFRICA. HE WAS ARTICULATE IN CONVERSATION, BUT NEVER BECAME EXCITED OR EMOTIONAL. IRONICALLY, I REMEMBER HAVING ASKED HIM FROM TIME TO TIME ABOUT A "YOUNG TURK" MOVEMENT IN THE PORTUGUESE ARMY. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS SOME UNHAPPINESS, BUT DENIED THERE WAS AN ORGANIZED ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT MOVEMENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. THIS WAS, OF COURSE, SOME FIVE YEARS AGO.

5. DURING OUR RELATIONSHIP, HE WAS ALWAYS FRIENDLY AND APPEARED TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE ADMIRATION FOR THE U.S. I FOUND HIM TO BE EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT AND WELL READ. HE AND HIS WIFE GAVE US SEVERAL BOOKS ON PORTUGUESE LITERATURE AND POETRY.

6. VITOR IS MARRIED TO MARIA TERESA FERREIRA DE ALMEIDA, THE DAUGHTER OF THE NAVY COMMANDER IN ANGOLA WHEN WE WERE THERE. YOU WILL RECALL ADMIRAL FERREIRA AS BEING SOMEWHAT OF A LOU AND A LOUDMOUTH. FERREIRA ADMIRED ALVES, BUT MY IMPRESSION WAS THE SENTIMENT WAS NOT RECIPROCATED. I HAVE LOST TRACK OF FERREIRA, BUT I DID SEE HIM IN BRASILIA SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN HE CAME AS A MEMBER OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY DURING PRESIDENT THOMAZ' VISIT. MARIA TERESA IS VERY APPROACHABLE, LIKEWISE INTELLIGENT AND STUDIED LITERATURE AT UNIVERSITY OF LISBON. SHE SPEAKS ENGLISH QUITE WELL AND MAY HAVE TAUGHT IT IN LUANDA.

7. VITOR ALVES APPEARS IN A BOOK ENTITLED "THE TERROR FIGHTERS" BY AL J. VENTER, PUBLISHED IN CAPETOWN BY PURNELL. HE GAVE ME A COPY OF THE BOOK. I AM POUCHING YOU COPIES OF THE RELEVANT PAGES.

8. I HOPE THE ABOVE HAS BEEN OF SOME HELP. REGRET I CANNOT PROVIDE MORE DATA. KISSINGER
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PAGE 03 STATE 188910

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